

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, October 16, 2009



*"A bend in the road is
not the end of the road...
unless you fail to make
the turn." ~Author
Unknown*

Commissioner Buss and State Representative Terri Austin attended a ribbon cutting dedication ceremony held at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to showcase the facility's new green, wood-fired biomass boiler operation.

This week, twelve students of the PREF Building Trades vocational class worked on a local Habitat for Humanity site. The students tore out interior walls, replaced a large section of the front wall, and built storage racks in the interior.

A reporter and photographer from MSNBC.com visited Miami Correctional Facility's CLIFF program recently, interviewing staff and offenders for an upcoming story that will be featured on the website as part of The Elkhart Project. The story focused on the financial and social impact of meth on the community.

A facility recall was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility, during which Superintendent Lemmon and Acting Executive Director of Adult Facilities Brett Mize recognized facility ICA award winners and staff who have significantly contributed to facility operations. They also informed staff of agency and facility news.

WISH-TV anchor/reporter Gene Rodriguez came to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility this week to interview a YIA offender for an upcoming series of reports about teens and gun crimes. The special series will air in November.

The Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund's Board of Trustees met for the second time to discuss the fund's progress. The Fund accepts donations to assist IDOC staff who are displaced by serious disaster. Indiana's Inspector General attended the meeting to ensure that Fund and Board activities are carried out in an ethical manner. As the Fund grows, donations will also be used to support scholarships for staff or members of their immediate family. Anyone wishing to donate may contact their facility head or district supervisor and watch for the debut of the Fund's new website.

Eight Inside Out Dad graduates from Pendleton's Level One Housing Unit were honored during a ceremony.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted eleven students from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer. The class professor William Hartley is a former IDOC employee. Students participated in the Straight Talk Program and toured the facility.

Plainfield staff were recognized for outstanding performance at the recent Indiana Correctional Association conference. Arthur Bryant received the ICA Educator of the Year award, Officer Stephen Manning received the ICA Correctional Officer of the Year Award, and Captain Herman Kelley received the Commissioner's Award for Supervisor of the Year.

The Indiana State Prison held a General Assembly and gave out yearly and quarterly awards. 42 staff members received Apprenticeship Certificates for completing the apprenticeship program. Staff also received years of service awards.

The BMV mobile unit processed state IDs for over 100 offenders at New Castle Correctional Facility this week.

Miami Correctional Facility recently hosted a facility tour for Special Olympics' staff and athletes. Facility staff connected with the athletes, parents, and staff at the recent Federal Express Plane Pull that benefits the Special Olympics.

Thirty-five bicycles reconditioned in the Pendleton Correctional Facility Shifting Gears program were donated to Partners in Housing, an agency in Indianapolis that provides housing to the homeless.

The Plainfield Correctional Complex held a Community Advisory Board Meeting this week at RDC.

Sergeant Daryl Brown from the Indiana State Prison received the Adjunct Instructor Trainer of the Year award from CTI.

The Employee Planning Committee at Westville presented a grilled hot dog lunch to 450 staff members during the evening hour shifts. Executive Staff helped deliver the meal and expressed appreciation for a job well done.

Seventeen students from Franklin College and two students from Ivy Tech toured Pendleton Correctional Facility.

Representatives from Leopard Films and the Speed Channel visited Pendleton, Plainfield, and Westville this week to tour the auto body programs in preparation for a documentary to be filmed entitled "Big House Garage."

Channel 13 WTHR-TV visited the Indiana State Prison to collect information and video footage in order to complete a story on the fabrication of electronic cell doors that will be used to replace the old, manual cell doors.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner